



3 NUTRITION SERVICES

Effective: 08/01/00

3.41 Breast Pumps

Revised: 05/16/05

POLICY: Local WIC Projects may provide breast pumps to WIC participants.

PROCEDURE: It is the local WIC agency's decision whether and under what conditions breast pumps are made available as a part of breastfeeding promotion and support. It is recommended that local agencies provide breast pumps judiciously, balancing program goals for promoting and supporting breastfeeding with liability and cost accountability concerns.

A. PROVIDING BREAST PUMPS

1. Breast pumps may be offered to participants based on need. Some women benefit significantly from the use of a breast pump, while many others do not need breast pumps to initiate and continue breastfeeding. Breast pumps may not be provided to pregnant women as an inducement to consider breastfeeding or to breastfeeding women to continue breastfeeding. In fact, some experts suggest that providing pumps to all breastfeeding women regardless of need may have the unintended effect of discouraging breastfeeding. This practice may give breastfeeding women the impression that special equipment is needed to express milk for their infant, and that use of a breast pump is necessary for successful breastfeeding.
2. Reasons breast pumps may be provided include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a) To mothers of premature infants.
 - b) To mothers of infants with severe feeding problems.
 - c) To mothers who are having difficulty establishing or maintaining adequate milk supply due to maternal/infant illness.
 - d) During mother/infant separation such as hospitalization or return to work or school.
 - e) To mothers who have temporary breastfeeding problems, such as engorgement.
 - f) To mothers of multiples.
3. Breast pumps may only be issued during the postpartum period.



4. Personal use breast pumps and personal use breast pump collection kits that are reused by another person may present a risk for cross-contamination from improper sterilization and from improper functioning of the pump due to possible deterioration of pump parts. Read the package insert to see if the manufacturer recommends a disinfection method for the specific brand/type of breast pump.

B. PROCUREMENT OF BREAST PUMPS

1. Medicaid Reimbursement

- a) Wisconsin Medicaid provides reimbursement for breast pumps when the clinical guidelines are documented. It is necessary to contact the HMO Medicaid providers in your area, as the HMO may have additional procedures for the provision and/or reimbursement for breast pumps.
- b) If a WIC participant receives Medicaid, every reasonable effort should be made to obtain a breast pump through Medicaid prior to providing a breast pump purchased with WIC funds.

2. WIC Food Dollars

- a) The State WIC Office may purchase breast pumps for local WIC agencies to provide to WIC participants with WIC food funds, as available.
- b) It is the local agency's decision to provide breast pumps to WIC participants as part of their breastfeeding promotion and support plan.
- c) Breast pumps purchased by the State WIC Office with WIC food funds must be distributed free of charge to WIC participants. Projects may collect a reasonable, refundable deposit for hospital grade electric or pedal pumps that are loaned to participants.

3. Ordering Breast Pumps

- a) The State WIC Office will coordinate breast pump orders for local projects. Projects may not place orders directly with the company for breast pumps purchased with WIC food dollars.
- b) Projects may request a 90-day supply of personal breast pumps and/or kits using the Breast Pump and Formula Sample Order form. The State WIC Office must receive the order form by the 7th of the month prior to delivery. For example, the order must be received by September 7th for delivery in October, by December 7th for delivery in January, by February 7th for delivery



in March and by June 7th for delivery in July. A sample order form is included in the attachments.

- c) The breast pumps will be shipped to the local project directly from the manufacturer. Delivery sites must be staffed during normal business hours or other arrangements for someone to accept the delivery should be made.
- d) Verify the shipment with the packing slip, as well as the order placed with the State WIC Office. If these do not match, write the difference on the packing slip and notify the State WIC Breastfeeding Coordinator.
- e) The State WIC Office will contact the local project if the order appears excessive or confusing.

4. WIC Nutrition Services and Administrative (NSA) Dollars

- a) Local agencies may purchase breast pumps to provide to WIC participants with WIC NSA funds as part of their breastfeeding promotion and support plan.
- b) Breast pumps are not a direct program benefit so they may be offered free, at a reduced cost or at cost to WIC participants.
- c) The local agency must treat income from the sale of breast pumps and accessories as an applicable credit against expenditures for program costs and must be used to offset or reduce charges made to the WIC grant.
- d) Breastfeeding promotion and support costs that may be charged to the WIC administrative grant include, but are not limited to, staff or consultant salaries to manage breast pump programs and space required to store breast pumps and collection kits, breast pump maintenance and sanitation costs.

C. TRAINING STAFF

- 1. All local agency staff who are distributing breast pumps should be trained to do the following:
 - a) evaluate a woman's need for a breast pump
 - b) authorize and issue a breast pump
 - c) instruct a woman on how to assemble, use and clean a breast pump
 - d) instruct a woman on the proper storage of breastmilk



- e) instruct a woman on how to hand express breastmilk
- f) provide, or assure, timely follow-up services for women who are given a breast pump.

D. COUNSELING CLIENTS

1. Local agencies should establish written policies and procedures regarding assessment of breast pump need, determining the appropriate type of breast pump and instructions to be provided to participants receiving a breast pump. A sample checklist assessment form, *Which Breast Pump is Best for You?*, is attached for you to use with participants. The form may also be used to document the type of pump provided and other information.
2. It is recommended that a trained, designated staff person(s) provide instructions to participants on the proper use, assembly and cleaning of the breast pump.
3. The breast pump recipient should be able to demonstrate the proper assembly and usage of the breast pump before leaving with the breast pump. Written instructions on the assembly and cleaning of the breast pump should accompany the breast pump.
4. Follow-up is recommended within 24 hours, to assure that the breast pump is operating correctly, and that it is being used properly.

E. PROVISION OF BREAST PUMPS

1. A *Decision Tree for Provision of a Breast Pump* has been developed to assist the local agency with the processes involved in providing breast pumps through Medicaid fee for service, a Medicaid HMO or a WIC Project. The Decision Tree is provided in the attachments.
2. To assist with *Planning to Provide Breast Pumps* a checklist of that name has been developed for the local agency. The checklist is included in the attachments.

F. DOCUMENTATION

1. The type of breast pump provided and the counseling/education provided must be documented in the participant's file. A sample is included in the attachments.
2. A rental grade electric breast pump purchased with WIC funds (Food or NSA) is considered a sensitive asset and must be identified with a WIC Identification Number label and included on the WIC Project Equipment Inventory record. See policy 11.6.



3. The local agency must maintain an inventory and a distribution list of all breast pumps and collection kits purchased with WIC funds. The distribution list should include date of issue, name and ID # of participant, type of pump, staff initials, serial number (if the pump has one), WIC ID tag number and return date. These records must be maintained for at least 3 full fiscal years plus 150 days. Sample forms are included in the attachments.

G. EVALUATION: A project may wish to compile information on the effectiveness of providing breast pumps as part of their breastfeeding promotion and support plan and the effect on breastfeeding duration among women who received a breast pump and the type of breast pump received.

REFERENCES:

*Medicaid Policy – September 2002; Number 2002-55

*NAWD Position Statement – Guidelines for WIC Agencies Providing Breast Pumps

February 2000 Breastfeeding Update

ATTACHMENTS:

*Wisconsin WIC Program Breast Pump Order Form

*Decision Tree for Provision of a Breast Pump

*Planning to Provide Breast Pumps Checklist

*Assessment Checklist – Which Breast Pump is Best For You?

*Sample Breast Pump Distribution List

*Sample Breast Pump Inventory List